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Targeted Therapies and Emerging Options for CARDIOMYOPATHIES:

Florence Advances in Cardiomyopathy Series

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTORS

Perry Elliott - Iacopo Olivotto - Faiez Zannad



OCTOBER 7th-9th 2026

FLORENCE

The rapid evolution of molecular cardiology, genetics, and targeted therapeutics is reshaping the management of cardiomyopathies and rare cardiovascular diseases. These conditions, though individually uncommon, collectively impose a significant global burden and often require highly specialized, multidisciplinary expertise. As scientific progress accelerates, there is a pressing need for a coordinated international forum where emerging therapeutic strategies can be critically examined, compared, and translated into meaningful clinical advances. To meet this need, the present workshop will welcome leading experts from around the world, for an interactive meeting dedicated to therapeutic innovation and the future of clinical trial design in this field. Breakthroughs in gene and RNA-based therapies, precision immunomodulation, disease-modifying agents, and advanced device technologies are reaching a pivotal moment. Bringing together clinicians, researchers, regulatory authorities, and patient advocates in a collaborative environment will allow participants to explore mechanistic insights, refine trial methodologies, and address challenges such as biomarker development, patient stratification, and long-term outcome assessment. Hosting this meeting in Florence — a city historically associated with creativity, exchange, and scientific curiosity — underscores our commitment to fostering open dialogue and global collaboration. By aligning perspectives across regions and disciplines, the meeting aims to catalyze new partnerships, harmonize research priorities, and ultimately accelerate the delivery of safe, effective, and equitable therapies for patients living with cardiomyopathies and rare cardiovascular diseases.

The Scientific Directors

13:30 Welcome coffee

13:45 Registration of participants

14:15 Official greetings and opening ceremony

Francesco Annunziato – Director of the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence

Federico Gelli – Chief Executive Officer, Meyer Children's Hospital, Florence

Daniela Matarrese – Chief Executive Officer, Careggi University Hospital, Florence

Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad



SETTING THE STAGE

Chairpersons: Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

14:30 Open questions and unmet needs in cardiomyopathies

Perry Elliott

14:50 Innovation in cardiovascular therapeutics: an overview

Giulio Pompilio

15:10 Discussion



A COMPREHENSIVE LOOK AT DRUG DEVELOPMENT: THE JOURNEY

Chairpersons: Elisabetta Cerbai; Michele Emdin

15:30 From the idea to the molecule

Leslie Leinwand

15:50 From the molecule to clinical trials

Yigal M. Pinto

16:10 From clinical trials to registration

Raffaele Coppini

16:30 From registration to patients

Giancarlo Agnelli

16:50 Discussion

17:10 Industry Corner: updates and future developments

Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad

19:10 Closing of the first day and welcome cocktail

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 8TH

08:15 Registration of participants

08:45 Opening of the second day

Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad



ADVANCE IN EXPERIMENTAL MODELS AND PRECLINICAL APPROACHES

Chairpersons: Raffaele Coppini; Benjamin Meder

09:00 From experimental HCM models to gene therapy

Lucie Carrier

09:20 Bridging the divide from mouse to men: do our models reflect human disease?

Cecilia Ferrantini

09:40 Human-cell and engineered models: patient-specific mechanisms and drug screening

Thomas Eschenhagen

10:00 Discussion

10:20 Coffee break

10:50 Multistakeholder moderated debate

When is pre-clinical data good enough for translation?

Chairpersons: Carolyn Yung Ho; Jolanda Van Der Velden

Discussants: Eric David Adler; Gabriel Brooks; Leslie Leinwand;

Benjamin Meder



PHARMACOLOGICAL THERAPIES FOR CARDIOMYOPATHIES

State of the Art – Part I

Chairpersons: Eloisa Arbustini; Francesco Cappelli

11:50 Protein stabilizers

Pablo Garcia Pavia

12:10 Myosin modulators

Iacopo Olivotto

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 8TH

12:30 Mitotropes/metabolic modulators

Martin S. Maron

12:50 Exercise prescription as precision medicine in cardiomyopathies

Gherardo Finocchiaro

13:10 Light lunch

PHARMACOLOGICAL THERAPIES FOR CARDIOMYOPATHIES

State of the Art – Part II

Chairpersons: Filippo Crea; Iacopo Olivotto

14:10 Targeting microtubules and beta-adrenergic receptor signaling

Jolanda Van Der Velden

14:30 Anti-interleukins - removal therapies

Federica Marelli-Berg

14:50 SGLT1/2 inhibitors

Anjali Tikun Owens

15:10 Contemporary treatment of myocarditis

Maurizio Pieroni

15:30 Discussion

GENE THERAPY: WHERE ARE WE DOWN THE ROAD?

Chairpersons: Enrico Ammirati; Alessia Argirò

15:50 RNA therapies for cardiac regeneration and gene editing

Mauro Giacca

16:10 Silencers and RNAs

Francesco Cappelli

16:30 Gene editing

Alessia Argirò

16:50 Discussion

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 8TH

17:10 Paradigms: Fredreich's Ataxia
Eric David Adler

17:30 Paradigms: Danon and Pompe
Juan Pablo Kaski

17:50 Discussion

18:10 Closing of the second day



DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 9TH

08:15 Registration of participants

08:45 Opening of the third day

Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivotto; Faiez Zannad



TRANSLATIONAL BREAKTHROUGHS. WHAT WORKED, AND WHY?

Chairpersons: Perry Elliott; Gianfranco Sinagra

09:00 Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

Carolyn Yung Ho

09:20 Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Neal K. Lakdawala

09:40 Amyloidosis

Simone Longhi

10:00 Lysosomal diseases

Eloisa Arbustini

10:20 Innovation in cardiac devices

Carlo Di Mario

10:40 Discussion

11:00 Coffee break



THE QUEST FOR CLINICALLY MEANINGFUL AND APPROVABLE ENDPOINTS IN CARDIOMYOPATHY TRIALS

Chairpersons: Aldo Pietro Maggioni; Marco Metra

11:30 Hard outcomes

Scott Solomon

11:50 Patient reported outcomes

Anjali Tiku Owens

12:10 Exercise capacity

Caroline Coats

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 9TH

12:30 Biomarkers
Manuel Mayr

12:50 Imaging/Wearables
Gabriella Captur

13:10 Discussion

13:30 Light lunch



METHODOLOGY, TRIAL DESIGN AND STATISTICAL ISSUES

Chairpersons: Scott Solomon; Faiez Zannad

14:30 Is adaptive design appropriate in cardiomyopathy trials? Or else?
Peter Jüni

14:50 Statistical issues and solutions for small sample size trials
Brian Claggett

15:10 Disruptive methodologies: In-silico modelling/digital twins and AI solutions
Jari Hyttinen

15:30 Discussion

15:50 **Multistakeholder debate**

The patient's perspective "feel, function and survive", what else?

Discussants: Elena Arbelo; Franco Cecchi; Callum Ferguson; Emil Tsenov

DAY 3 – FRIDAY, 9TH



CONCLUSIONS: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- 16:50** Cardiomyopathies are becoming mainstream in the HF community: opportunities and challenges
Faiez Zannad
- 17:10** How to bridge global inequities in the access to advanced treatments? The WHO Perspective
Perry Elliott
- 17:30** Discussion
- 17:50** Final remarks and conclusions
Perry Elliott; Iacopo Olivetto; Faiez Zannad
- 18:00** CME evaluation

SCIENTIFIC DIRECTORS

Perry Elliott

*Director of UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science & British Heart Foundation
Centre of Research Excellence, London (UK)*

Iacopo Olivotto

*Professor of Cardiovascular Diseases, University of Florence - Meyer University
Hospital, Florence (IT)*

Faiez Zannad

*Emeritus Professor of Therapeutics and Cardiology, Centre d'Investigation Clinique
Inserm and Université de Lorraine, CHU Nancy (FR)*

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Raffaele Coppini, Florence (IT)
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Carlo Di Mario, Florence (IT)
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Jolanda Van Der Velden, Amsterdam (NL)
Faiez Zannad, Nancy (FR)

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONGRESS VENUE

Auditorium Camera di Commercio di Firenze
Piazza Mentana, 1
50122 Firenze

REGISTRATION

The congress is reserved for 200 participants.

Physician (under 35)

€ 200,00 VAT Included

Physician

€ 400,00 VAT Included

The registration includes:

- Congress kit
- Participation in the sessions
- Certificate of attendance
- CME certificate (for eligible participants)
- Welcome cocktail
- Coffee break
- Light Lunch

The registration form is available by scanning the QR code.

Registration is considered complete upon filling out the online form and verifying seat availability



CME PROVIDER

MCR Conference S.r.l. ID 489

Please note that the first day (October 7th, 2026) is NOT included in the CME program.

Number of credits assigned: 4,5

Training objective: Guidelines - Protocols - Procedures

Profession: Medical Doctor

Disciplines: Anesthesiology; Cardiac Surgery; Cardiology; Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology; Diseases of the Respiratory System; Emergency Medicine and Surgery; General Medicine; Genetics; Geriatrics; Internal Medicine; Sports Medicine; Pediatrics

The issuance of credit certification is subject to:

- *The match between the participant's profession and discipline and those for which the event is intended*
- *Attendance of at least 90% of the scientific sessions*
- *Submission of the evaluation and learning questionnaires duly completed*

Please note that passing the learning assessment requires a minimum of 75% correct answers

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